

The restriction requirement, as set forth above and on p. 2 of the Office Action, is respectfully traversed. However, to be fully responsive to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, the subject matter of Group I, claims 1 and 14-17.

Applicants refer the Examiner to M.P.E.P. § 803, which sets forth the criteria and guidelines for Examiners to follow in making proper requirements for restriction. The M.P.E.P. instructs Examiners as follows:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Office must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

M.P.E.P. § 803 (emphasis added).

Here, the Examiner has not shown that examining the above groups together would constitute a serious burden. Although the Examiner has not specified the class and subclass of the Groups, Applicants respectfully submit that a search for these groups of claims should substantially overlap. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is in error and request that the requirement be withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in resolving any outstanding issues, he is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 408-4162.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge
any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P

By:


Mark D. Sweet
Reg. No. 41,469

DATE: Monday, August 25, 2003

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com